



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Amanda Smith
Executive Director

Brad T Johnson
Deputy Director

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACTS

Donna Kemp Spangler
DEQ Communications Director
Office: 801-536-4484
Cell: 801-554-4944
dspangler@utah.gov

Craig Dietrich
Department Of Health
Environmental Epidemiology Program
Office: 801-538-6832

Amy Dickey
Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Water Quality
Office: 801-536-4334

Mark Hadley
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
Office: 801-538-4737



Updates to Utah Mercury Fish Consumption Advisory List

New Waterway and Species Added

SALT LAKE CITY — One new location and two new fish species at existing advisory locations have been added to Utah’s Mercury Fish Consumption Advisory list. The advisories are being issued after state officials found elevated levels of mercury in fish tissue in these waterways.

The new advisories include:

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Water Body	Species	Pregnant women and children under age 6	Women of child-bearing age and children ages 6-16	Adult women past child-bearing age and men > 16
		<i>(4-oz meals)</i>	<i>(8-oz meals)</i>	<i>(8-oz meals)</i>
Number of Meals per Month				
Flaming Gorge Reservoir (Daggett County) <i>New location</i>	Smallmouth Bass	1	2	7
Joes Valley Reservoir (Emery County) <i>New species at existing advisory location</i>	Tiger Muskie	0	1	3
Upper Enterprise Reservoir (Washington County) <i>New species at existing advisory location</i>	Smallmouth Bass	0	1	4

For a complete list of all Utah Mercury Fish Consumption Advisories please visit: www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.

Lake Powell Update: A consumption advisory was issued in 2012 for striped bass in the lower portion of Lake Powell from the Dangling Rope Marina south to the dam. Follow-up sampling was conducted in 2013 in an effort to better characterize mercury concentrations in the upper portion of the lake. One hundred striped bass from Good Hope Bay, one-fourth mile south of Castle Butte, were analyzed and found to be below the level of concern for consumption.

An 8-ounce serving is equivalent to the size of two decks of playing cards. According to an analysis completed by the Utah Department of Health, eating more than the amounts noted in the advisories over a long period of time could result in an intake of mercury that exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency health recommendations.

Mercury is a naturally occurring element that can be transformed into methylmercury, a toxic form found in some natural waters. Those most vulnerable to the effects of mercury toxicity include women who are pregnant or may become pregnant, nursing mothers and young children. Chronic exposure to low concentrations of methyl mercury in fish may result in neurological effects in the developing fetus and children.

Any health risks associated with eating fish from the fish advisory areas are based on long-term consumption and are not tied to eating fish occasionally. Eating fish remains an important part of a healthy diet. The American Heart Association recommends that individuals eat at least two fish or seafood meals weekly.

After testing hundreds of water bodies, health officials have found that less than 10 percent of Utah's tested waters have fish with elevated levels of mercury in their tissue.

There is no health risk associated with mercury in the water for other uses of the reservoirs, streams, rivers, or creeks, such as swimming, boating and waterskiing.

Not all water bodies have been tested and further testing may result in additional advisories. Utah fish consumption advisories are issued in partnership between the Utah Department of Health, Utah Department of Environmental Quality and the Utah Department of Natural Resources.

For more information please visit: www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](#)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](#)), or call 1-800-458-0145.

About UDOH

The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

About DNR

The Utah Department of Natural Resources is responsible for ensuring that Utah's natural resources are protected, conserved and used wisely for the benefit of the citizens of the state. Our mission is to sustain and enhance Utah's quality of life today and tomorrow through the coordinated and balanced stewardship of our natural resources.